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Outreach News is published six times a year by the State Conservation Commission to assist Washington's 47 conservation districts with their education and outreach efforts.

Ideas and articles can be submitted to Susie Vanderburg: [susiev@scc.wa.gov](mailto:susiev@scc.wa.gov)

## WADE is Just Around the Corner!

Have you ever asked yourself any of these questions?

- What could/should my district be doing to help landowners prepare for emergencies?
- What's the most effective way to teach BMPs to horse owners?
- What are some exciting and successful ways to reach new audiences with conservation information on nature-scaping, backyard wildlife stewardship, and low impact development?
- What is all this talk about "Face Book" and "Twitter" and "You-tube?" Can our district take advantage of these new "social networking" tools for outreach messaging?
- How can our district best utilize volunteers?
- What does my district need to know about cultural resources?
- What are some easy, proven tips for taking excellent photos to tell our story?

Come to Leavenworth June 15-17 for WADE's annual training workshop to explore these questions and many more. In addition to a great menu of Information & Education sessions, the keynote speaker, Nancy Lee, a well-known social marketing consultant, will inspire all of us to rethink how we conduct outreach activities. Visit <http://wade.scc.wa.gov/> for WADE registration information.



Ron Nichols returns to WADE in 2009 to offer his inspiring session on "how to take great photos."

**Bring your camera!!**

## Get Ready to Share: Bring Your Thumbdrives!



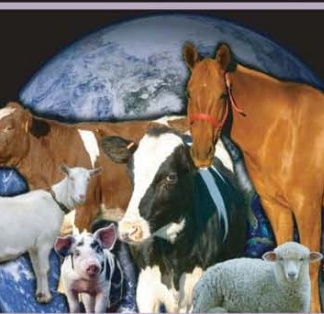
WADE offers us a great opportunity to exchange ideas and information via sessions and discussions, and here's one more idea as well. If you have a new and/or successful outreach product (brochure, newsletter, PowerPoint, or poster,) and you would be willing to share it so that others can use your ideas as a template, please bring an electronic copy to WADE. The Commission will set up a laptop in the

I&E track session space for people to download ideas from each other. Whatcom CD and Thurston CD have already volunteered to bring some new items (see page 2,) and, hopefully, many of you will also have things to share! Even if you don't, be sure to bring your thumbdrives!

## District Ideas and News

## Whatcom Unveils New Outreach Materials

Whatcom CD has created exciting new fact sheets and posters for numerous BMPs. Electronic versions of these attractive materials will be available to download and use as templates at WADE this coming June. Bring your thumbdrives!



**Do the right thing!**

Livestock waste is what of many sources of bacterial pollution that enters Watcom County's streams and rivers

**Manage manure,  
fence livestock,  
establish buffers.**

Healthy livestock. Healthy land. Healthy streams.

Call today for a free livestock risk assessment pamphlet!!

*Watcom*  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

8075 Harrington Road  
Lewistown, MO 65454 202/696-4140 ext. 200

# Do the right thing!

Contact us for assistance on manure management, livestock fencing and establishing stream buffers.

Ask about our TIPS booklet.

*Whatcom*  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
www.whatcomd.org  
800-354-2035

6975 Harnegan Road, Lynden, WA 98264

**TIPS**  
on Land & Water Management

Get Good Land and Livestock Practices  
in Whatcom County! Running for

## Healthy Livestock, Healthy Land, Healthy Streams for a better Whatcom County.

[illegible]

# Composting livestock Manure

**BMP Factsheet**

Regular collection of manure from stalls, paddocks, and confinement areas is essential to the health of your animals. Wherever there is manure, there are parasite larvae. The life cycle of livestock parasites involves leaving the host animal via manure and then reinfesting a new host. The combination of dung and urine soaked bedding is a perfect medium for the proliferation of bacteria and flies.

For livestock owners, composting is an excellent alternative to current practices. This factsheet describes composting include:

- Reduction of parasite reinfestation of your animals. The heat generated in composting process kills worm eggs.
- Elimination of fly breeding ground and corresponding reduction of number of flies.
- Production of an excellent fertilizer. Composting reduces the volume of waste, makes nutrients more available to plants and increases organic material in soil.

**Best Management Practices (BMP) Factsheets**

Livestock Composting	Manure Management
Land Application	Feedlot Management
Water Pollution	Water Pollution
Prior-Slope and Buffers	Visual Management
Soil Erosion	Soil Erosion
Competition	Competition

- Pollution risk reduction. Regularly collecting and composting livestock waste reduces the chance of runoff from your property becoming contaminated and contributing to pollution of streams and groundwater.
- Aesthetic improvements. Regularly collecting and composting livestock waste helps your property be more pleasing for you and your neighbors to look at and enjoy.

- A high, level area of your property should be selected for your compost operation. Don't collect your livestock waste in a low-lying area or it will turn into a soggy mess. A location that's convenient to your stall and paddock areas will make the chore of cleaning up easier and less time consuming.

- A three-pile compost system works best; one ready to spread, one in the process of decomposition, and one to which fresh manure is added daily. One pile should be built to contain the flies. Landscape timbers work best for this purpose.

By following a few simple management techniques, composting of livestock waste can be greatly enhanced. Optimum composting takes place by allowing by ensuring that proper moisture, carbon, and oxygen needs are met in order for the microorganisms to break down the manure into a

**Whetson**  
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

(860)354-2035  
www.whetsonco.org

0775 Hageness Road  
Lyons, WA 98244

# Farm Resources



**Mottom**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Best Management Practices (BMP) Factbooks

## Filter Strips & Buffers

This brochure is one of a series developed for livestock owners with small farms. Each brochure focuses on one of the management tools that farmers can use to protect the health of the soil and the health of your property's natural resources.



**Mottom**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Best Management Practices (BMP) Factbooks

**What is a filter strip?**



**Mottom**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Best Management Practices (BMP) Factbooks



**Mottom**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Best Management Practices (BMP) Factbooks

**Once gutters and downspouts are installed, drain tiles, or simple ditches may be used (with proper care and planning) to intercept runoff water and to re-direct that water away from your animal confinement areas. Re-directing runoff rainfall water away from animal confinement areas prevents that offsite water from contributing to muddy conditions.**

**Muddy areas should not be allowed to drain directly into streams, ponds, swales, or ditches. Muddy water or runoff from an animal confinement area should be limited to draining into a vegetated area (i.e., a "filter strip" see factbook) or a waterbody pond. The main purpose of a filter strip is to intercept nutrients, sediment, and pathogens before the contaminants enter surface water.**

**A high sloped forage bed maintained in strips? Forages should be no shorter than between Oct 1 and March 15. They may be mowed shorter than that during the rest of the season but be given time to regrow several days after they are grazed or mowed again.**

**When is the minimum buffer width with large, different confinement area need even wider? The width of the buffer should be at least the the confinement area itself.**

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*Best Management Practices  
Fact Sheets*

# Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage

## Planning for an Orderly Transition Intergenerational Family Forest Project

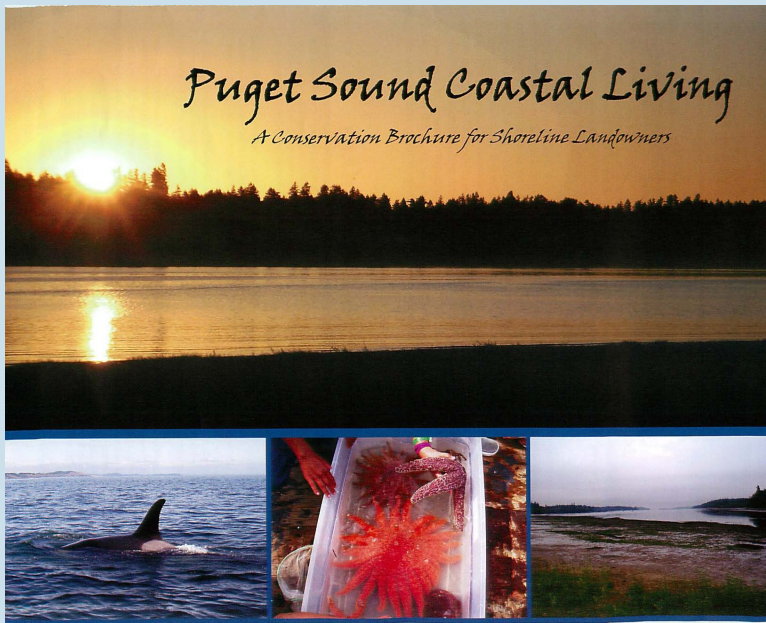
A special  
Oregon State University Forestry Extension  
Oregon Forest Resources Institute  
Adult Family Resource Project, Oregon State University  
Gaines & Keefer Certified Public Accountants  
Cora Lyndon, Attorney at Law

## Clallam and Underwood Co-sponsor “Ties to the Land” Workshops

In partnership with DNR's Small Forest Landowners Office, Clallam CD and Underwood CD hosted workshops in their areas to help forest and farm families plan for the future of their lands. Participants received a workbook and DVD. For more information, contact: [Michael.ahr@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Michael.ahr@dnr.wa.gov).



## District Ideas and News (continued)



### New Coastal Living Brochure Available at Thurston CD

Kandi Bauman, Education Coordinator at Thurston CD, recently shared a new publication, "Puget Sound Coastal Living." This beautiful 25.5" X 11" (tri-folded) brochure was designed by TCD staff with the help of Daniel Nylen, an Evergreen State College student intern. The inside panel topics are: *Shoreline Matters, Get to Know Your Shoreline, and Shoreline Resources.* TCD has provided an electronic copy of the publication for anyone to download at WADE this June.

### Lincoln County CD Offers Cool Prizes for Poster Contest

Teachers and parents in Lincoln County have easy access to all the information they need to enter LCCD's soil poster contest by visiting the district's website: [www.lincolncd.com](http://www.lincolncd.com). LCCD is also offering the following cool prizes:

- 1st place – Four one day passes for Wild Waters Water Park in Couer d'Alene, Idaho.
- 2nd place – \$40 gift certificate for dinner and bowling at Davenport Lanes
- 3rd place – \$25 gift certificate good at any SUBWAY Restaurant



***Don't forget:*** If your district is sponsoring a poster contest, be sure to send the winning entries to the Conservation Commission by May 31, 2009 for state-wide judging. Posters need to have the official entry form on the back.

The Commission's mailing address if using *US mail* is:

***PO Box 47721, Olympia, WA 98504-7721***

If sending items by *UPS or FedEx*, the mailing address is:

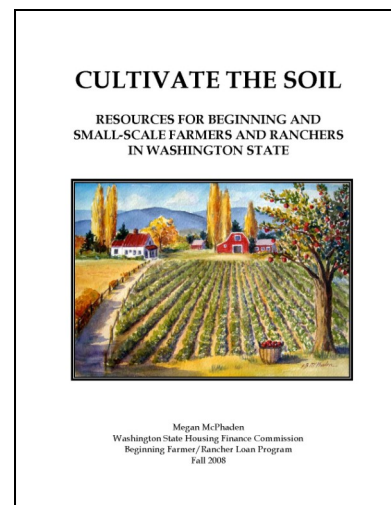
***300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA, 98503***

Please send only the first place poster from each category. (There are 7 possible categories: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12; 4-6 soil painting; and 9-12 computer art.)

## Education and Outreach Resources

### Housing Finance Commission Produces Booklet for New Farmers

A new booklet, "Cultivate the Soil: Resources for Beginning and Small-scale Farmers and Ranchers in Washington State," is available online at <http://www.wshfc.org/FarmRanch/resources.pdf>. Though the booklet mainly covers business planning aspects of farming, one chapter is devoted to sustainable farming and lists many agencies and organizations as resources. Strangely, conservation districts are not listed, however the list provides some potential partners for projects and/or grants.

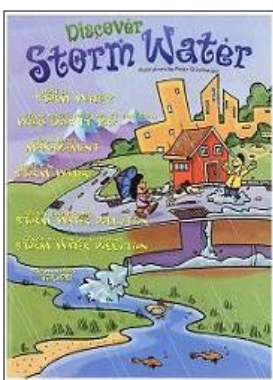
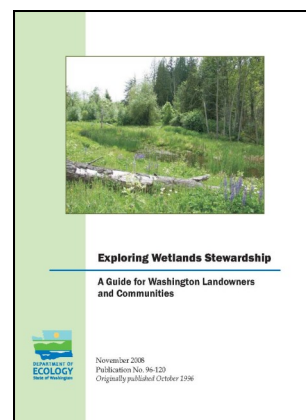


### Natural Yard Care Brochure Now Online

"Natural Yard Care: Five Steps to Make Your Piece of the Planet a Healthier Place to Live" is a recent brochure produced by Washington State Dept. of Ecology, available at [www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0807064.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0807064.pdf). The five topics covered are: build healthy soil, plant right for your site, practice smart watering, think twice before using pesticides, and practice natural lawn care.

### Wetland Guide Updated

Ecology's newly updated guide, "Exploring Wetland Stewardship," describes wetland stewardship strategies and features a complete directory (over 60 groups) of assistance programs available in Washington state. The guide can be viewed and/or downloaded at [www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/96120.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/96120.pdf).



### Kids' Stormwater Publication for Sale

The Water Education Foundation's bookstore features "Discover Storm Water," a colorful, 16-page book for ages 8-12. The booklet has informative text, activities, investigations, and experiments designed to teach awareness of storm water and how to prevent pollution. Pull on your rain boots and try to imagine what your town would be like without storm drains. Readers can calculate runoff on permeable and impermeable surfaces, follow the maze of nonpoint source pollution, and learn about best management practices.

### Future of Farming Report Available

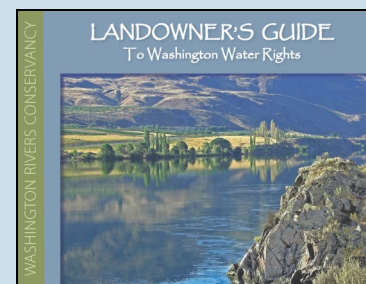
At the request of the 2007 Legislature, WSDA used an industry-guided method to develop a statewide strategic plan for Washington agriculture. Carried out during 2008, the project sought input on the present conditions and future challenges of agriculture from as many industry segments as possible. The Future of Farming *Strategic Plan for Washington Agriculture* is now available [online](#).



## Education and Outreach Resources (cont.)

### Handbook Demystifies Water Rights

The Washington Rivers Conservancy recently completed a publication titled “Landowner’s Guide to Washington Water Rights” to provide the public with the basic tools for understanding what a water right does and doesn’t provide. Visit [www.warivers.org/wrc\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.warivers.org/wrc_handbook.pdf).



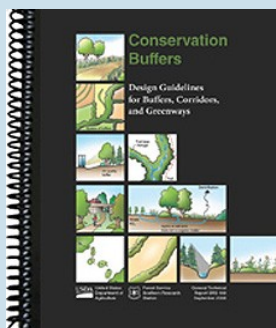
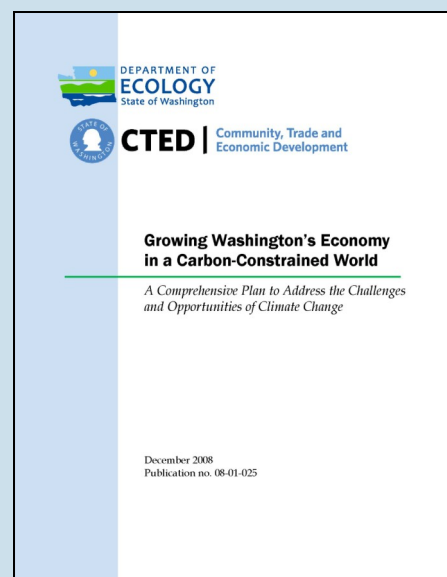
### Get Daily Grant News from Grants.gov

Grants.gov puts out a daily digest of federal grant funding opportunities. You can sign up (and unsubscribe at any time) at the following link: <http://www.grants.gov>. In the middle of the right hand blue box you will see a bullet titled “Grant Email alerts”. By clicking there you will find several options for which newsletter you would like to receive.

### 2008 Climate Comprehensive Plan: “Growing Washington's Economy in a Carbon-Constrained World” Sent to Legislature

This report describes the comprehensive plan for Washington State to reduce our green house gas (GHG) emissions and expand our green economy. It presents a coordinated set of policies—including incentives, regulations, and disincentives—to meet the GHG emissions reductions adopted into law in 2008 as part of E2SHB 2815.

Washington Departments of Ecology and Community, Trade and Economic Development led the report’s creation. The report also includes the work of the departments of Transportation, Natural Resources and Agriculture; the Western Climate Initiative; many business and environmental interests; tribal, local and state governments; and others who made up the state’s Climate Action Team. Visit [www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CompPlan.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CompPlan.htm).



### Check Out “Conservation Buffers: Design Guidelines for Buffers, Corridors, and Greenways”

The National Agro-Forestry Center, a partnership of NRCS and USFS, recently released an excellent booklet: “Conservation Buffers: Design Guidelines for Buffers, Corridors, and Greenways.” George Boggs, Whatcom CD Manager, reports, “It’s a great publication. There are great graphics for explaining concepts to landowners.” George also says that he will be bringing 100 copies to WADE this June to share with others.

### Combine Citizen Science with Native Plant Education

Project BudBurst has targeted 75 native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses for citizens to monitor throughout the year. By recording the timing of the leafing and flowering of native species each year, scientists can learn about the prevailing climatic characteristics in a region over time. Everything you need to know to participate can be found on the website!





## Education and Outreach Resources (cont.)

### NRCS Website Continues to Offer Excellent Resources

If you haven't visited the NRCS website lately for outreach ideas, be sure to take a look at <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/news/Comm101/comm101.html> to see all that "Communications 101" has to offer. Communications 101 was developed to bring you learning tools and resources to help create better outreach potential. Here's a list of topics from the website:



Developing a Presentation - It takes time and effort to develop an effective presentation, one that will be informational and enjoyable. Here are a few tips to keep in mind during the development process.

Graphic Design Basics - These tips will help you develop easy-to-read and attractive newsletters and other publications.

Meeting Basics - If you've ever been in charge of planning a meeting/event you know there's much to think about and do. Here's some tips to get you started.

Photography Basics - Anyone can take a picture, but it takes considerable more thought and skill to make a picture. We'll show you how to improve your skills and your pictures.

PowerPoint Tips - PowerPoint has become a common workplace communication tool. Here's some things to do to ensure your presentation is high quality, interesting, and enjoyable for your audience.

Public Speaking - Working with people is part of our daily routine as conservationists. With a little practice you can learn to overcome nervousness and make informative, memorable presentations.

Working with the Media - In order to be effective in carrying out your mission, you need the informed support of people in your community. One of the best ways to reach people in your community is through your local media.

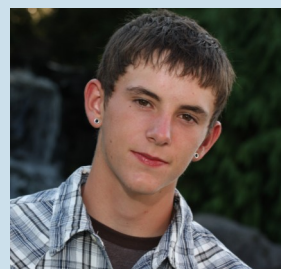
### Need Natural Resources Interns or Seasonal Workers?



The Veterans Conservation Corps has placed returning veterans as students in Natural Resources and Environmental programs at a number of colleges in the state. If your organization has positions for summer paid internships or other seasonal work, please contact Mark Fischer, Program Manager, at 360-725-2224 or [markf@dva.wa.gov](mailto:markf@dva.wa.gov). The colleges are Green River CC, Spokane CC, Olympic College, Peninsula College, and Lake Washington TC.

### High School Senior Lends a Hand!

Don't forget that most high school seniors must do a culminating project before they graduate. Thousands of students are working on community projects to complete this requirement and can be a great resource for districts. For example, Lisa Martin's son, Mason Shirts (right), recently photo-documented the Southwest Regional Envirothon for his senior project, providing a terrific service to Wahkiakum and Cowlitz CDs.



## Outreach News from around the Nation



### Bag Monster Surprises Annual Meeting in Indiana

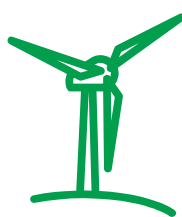
A thing that identified itself as “The Bag Monster” burst into the meeting room of the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District’s annual dinner recently. Made up of 600 plastic bags, the noisy creature skipped around the 100 or so audience members, pleaded for them to help prolong its existence, and thanked taxpayers for its lovely landfill home. Then it disappeared as quickly as it appeared. The Bag Monster is a recent addition to the education efforts of the district. Its playful promotion of plastic bags is a good way to teach residents of all ages about the need to reduce the usage of plastic bags and the importance of recycling those in circulation.

### Big Tree Contest Highlights the Importance of Trees in Ohio

For a number of years now, the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District has sponsored a Big Tree Contest in Muskingum County. The purpose of the contest, in addition to locating, measuring, and documenting the county's big trees, is to provide an opportunity to remind people how trees play an important role in our quality of life.



### Landowners Learn about Wind Rights in New Mexico



When it comes to wind rights and development of wind energy, landowners could be short-changed if they don't do their homework. To help people with decisions pertaining to wind energy development, the Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, presented a free public workshop on the basics of wind energy development for interested area landowners and residents.

### Oregon District Targets New Audience

Over the last several years, the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District noticed that a higher percentage of the population of their largely rural county were high-income, urban homeowners. Most of these high income homeowners were more interested in golf-course-green lawns and manicured landscaping than nature-scaping with native plants and backyard conservation. The district began a campaign to appeal to this new audience. One of its major efforts was to get involved and advertise with the Home Builder Association’s annual “Street of Dreams” event, which draws in thousands of homeowners, home builders, related companies and media. This involvement resulted in increased media coverage, requests for workshops, new partnerships and new funding opportunities.



### Farm Energy Technologies Offered at Massachusetts Conference



The Bristol County Conservation District sponsored a one-day farm conference and resource fair in March, 2009. The key conference topics included farm energy technologies to help farms monitor and save on energy use. Other topics included farm transfer and tenure options to keep farmland in working agriculture; season extension; grass-fed beef; pastured poultry; and an all day grants room.

## Outreach Ideas from around the Nation

### Frog Monitors Trained in Illinois



The McHenry County Conservation District recently trained volunteers on how to identify the calls of 13 frog and toad species in the county.

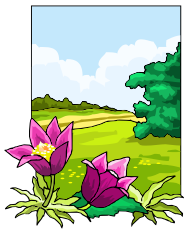
Trained “frog monitors” will then spend an hour after sunset at specific sites listening and recording the mating sounds of frogs and toads three times during three breeding periods. Data collected since 2000

have been used to guide conservation planning and land management decisions. The abundance and distribution of frogs and toads, which are considered an indicator species, can help determine the health of a wetland ecosystem.

### North Carolina District Looks at “Farming in the Future”

The Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a recent workshop: “Farming in the 21st Century: The New Frontier.”

The purpose of the workshop was to teach attendees about becoming sustainable farmers, preserving farmland, and developing business plans through conservation easements, direct and local marketing opportunities and new farming approaches. A panel of expert farmers shared their farming experiences and encouraged attendees to think outside the box of normal farming and explore new avenues.



### Mississippi District Aids State Wildflower Initiative

The Lamar County Conservation District has championed a state initiative to sow the seeds of Mississippi wildflowers, dressing up stretches of Lamar County highways and entrances to parks. Most of the seeds are annuals, and some are perennials, but among the annuals, most will re-seed.

### New Jersey Uses Inflatable Soil Tunnel

The New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts, as part of a collaborative effort with USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service and NJDA - State Soil Conservation Committee, helped develop the newest educational display tool: the Soil Tunnel. The inflatable tunnel measures approximately 16' long x 16' wide and 12' high. The tree trunk on the tunnel gives the appearance that visitors are entering “underground.” The interior of the tunnel was designed to illustrate what lives in the soil and the evidence commonly found in soil representing past civilizations. The exterior of the tunnel was designed to illustrate the functions of soil and the various soil profiles.

